AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 cancelled.

24. (new) A method for configuring a diagnostic device to access information from an on-board diagnostic system of a vehicle under test, the method comprising:

connecting a protocol specific connector to a handheld diagnostic device;

identifying physical features of the connector, the physical features directly identifying at least one communication protocol associated with the vehicle under test;

retrieving configuration data associated with the communications protocol(s); and

configuring the diagnostic device in accordance with the retrieved configuration data.

25. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the step of identifying physical features of the connector includes identifying the connector connectivity configuration.

26. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the step of identifying physical features of the connector includes identifying the connector pin configuration.

27. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the step of identifying physical features of the connector comprises performing a continuity test to identify whether continuity exists between specific pins of the connector.

28. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the step of identifying physical features of the connector comprises determining if the connector is a standardized OBD-II connector.

29. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the method is performed with the device disconnected from the vehicle diagnostic port.

30. (new) The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein the associated communications protocol(s) comprises a plurality of communication protocols; and wherein the method further comprises serially polling the on-board diagnostic system using each of the plurality of communication protocols until successful communication is established between the device and the vehicle on-board system.

31. (new) The method as recited in Claim 30 wherein the plurality of the communication protocols include ISO9141, J1850 VPW, J1850 PWM, Keyword 2000, and CAN.

32. (new) A handheld diagnostic device for accessing information for accessing information from a diagnostic port of a vehicle under test, the device comprising:

a central processing unit;

a memory; and

a protocol specific connector for connecting the device to the diagnostic port;

the connector having physical features recognizable by the central processing unit, as directly corresponding to at least one associated communications protocol(s);

the memory including at least one look-up table identifying diagnostic configuration data corresponding to at least one associated communication protocol; and

and the central processing unit being operative to configure the diagnostic device in accordance to the configuration data.

33. (new) The device as recited in Claim 32 wherein connector is a standardized OBD-II connector.

34. (new) The device as recited in Claim 32 wherein at least one communication protocol(s) comprises a plurality of communications protocols;

wherein the memory includes diagnostic configuration data corresponding to each of the plurality of the protocols; and

wherein the device further comprises a sequencer for sequentially implementing each of the plurality of the protocols until successful communication is established with the vehicle's on-board diagnostic system.

35. (new) The device as recited in Claim 33 wherein the plurality of communications protocols comprise GM, Ford and Chrysler OBD-I communication protocol(s).

36. (new) The device as recited in Claim 35 wherein the plurality of communication protocols comprise ISO9141, J1850 VPW, J1850 PWM, Keyword 2000, and CAN protocols.